



THE MASTER'S SEMINARY

MASTER OF THEOLOGY HANDBOOK  
2021-2022

# Introduction

Welcome to the Master of Theology (Th.M.) degree program. We are delighted that you are contemplating post-graduate studies at The Master's Seminary (TMS) and are confident the program outlined below will make a significant contribution to your life and ministry effectiveness. The purpose of this handbook is to acquaint you with the details of this program and to set forth its requirements and procedures.

## Program Purpose

Every pastor is already a theologian, but the Th.M. degree program provides pastors with the opportunity for advanced training beyond what is possible in the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) program. The Th.M. program is designed to sharpen a student's exegetical, theological, and teaching skills, preparing him not only for pastoral ministry at the most demanding levels, but for a ministry of biblical research, teaching, and writing. More specifically, the program is designed for those who aspire to serve in the following capacities:

- As pastors and teachers in the local church. The program ultimately exists for the benefit of the local church. It aims to prepare students with the knowledge and skills needed for the rigorous responsibilities of weekly Bible exegesis and exposition, of strengthening current church leaders and preparing the leaders of the future, of equipping the membership at large for God-pleasing worship and service, of promoting sound doctrine, of providing defenses against the threat of false teaching, and of proclaiming the gospel to the lost.
- As administrators and instructors in church-based training ministries. The Th.M. curriculum provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary to develop, oversee, and teach in educational programs dedicated to equipping church members beyond what is typically provided through a local church's weekly ministry.
- As administrators and instructors in seminaries and training centers around the world. The opportunities arising through TMS's sister organization—The Master's Academy International (TMAI, [www.tmai.org](http://www.tmai.org))—illustrate the pressing need for teachers who can train church leaders in international contexts at an advanced level, but without the requirement of doctoral-level credentials.
- As writers. The curriculum of the Th.M. program is also designed for those inclined toward a ministry of theological writing that requires a honing of exegetical and theological skills beyond what a standard M.Div. program provides. The program is designed to take students deep into the best practices of biblical research, and to improve their ability to communicate truth in a clear, concise, and compelling manner.
- As future Ph.D. students. The Th.M. program provides the educational basis for students who wish to pursue an academic doctoral degree, particularly at TMS. While students can matriculate through the Th.M. program as a terminal program and thus bypass certain requirements related to qualification for Ph.D. studies, students are also able complete the Th.M. program as preparation for Ph.D. studies, fulfilling within their Th.M. curriculum qualifying requirements related to acceptance into TMS's Ph.D. program.

# Program Overview

## Four Emphases of Study

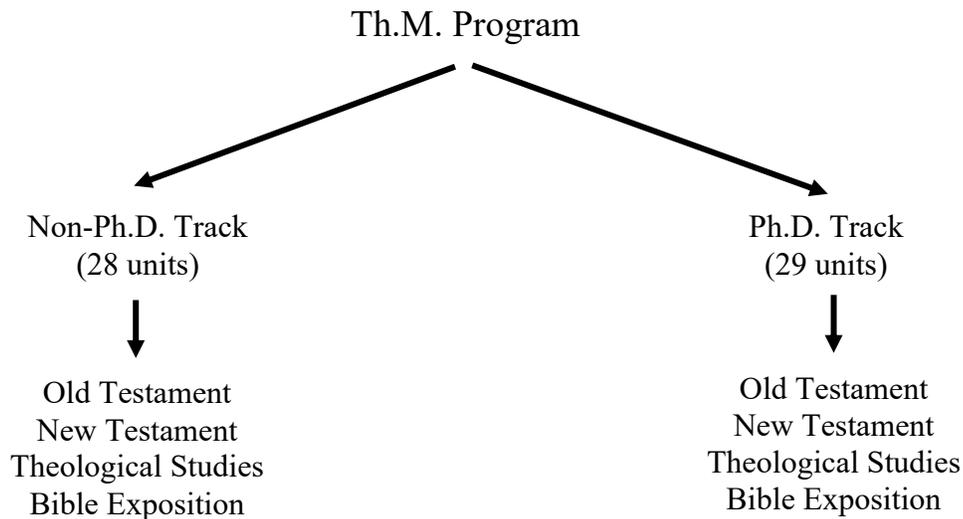
The Th.M. degree program at TMS provides students with the opportunity to specialize in one of four emphases:

- Old Testament (OT)
- New Testament (NT)
- Theological Studies (TH)
- Bible Exposition (BI)

Each emphasis offers a limited degree of overlap with the other emphases to provide balance and cross-politization with other disciplines. Moreover, each emphasis contains several required Educational Pedagogy (EP) seminars to prepare students for research and writing, curriculum development, and teaching in a classroom environment.

## Two Tracks of Study

In each of these four emphases, students choose between a 28-credit unit non-Ph.D. track (wherein the Th.M. serves as a terminal degree) and a 29-credit unit Ph.D. track (wherein the student is prepared for future doctoral studies). To demonstrate academic ability in the non-Ph.D. track, students are required to compile a research portfolio for the completion of their studies. In the Ph.D. track, the successful submission of a research thesis is required.



## **Duration of Study**

The Th.M. program can be completed in two or three years of full-time study (four or more credit units per semester), though part-time study (three credit units or less per semester) is permissible. The program provides instruction in fall and spring semesters consisting of eighteen weeks each. In the interest of preparing men for ministry or doctoral studies efficiently, the program is not to exceed four years except by written permission of the Th.M./Ph.D. committee.

Dedicated students can complete both the Th.M. and Ph.D. programs at TMS in as little as five years. To expedite future doctoral studies, students enrolled in the Ph.D. track must complete four Ph.D. qualifying exams as part of the Th.M. program—two of which cover research languages pertinent to the area of emphasis.

## **Small Class Sizes**

Because the Th.M. program is limited in its enrollment, faculty members are able to devote personal attention to individual students with respect to continuing spiritual and academic development, research techniques, teaching practices, writing style, and supporting areas of pedagogical methodology. Small class sizes provide significant opportunities for discussion and student-led presentations of research.

# **Curriculum Layout**

## **Two-Year Course of Study**

The following charts provide a curriculum layout for each of the four disciplines, assuming a two-year course of study. The chart in the left column represents the 28-unit non-Ph.D. track which culminates in a research portfolio. The chart in the right column represents the 29-unit Ph.D. track culminating in a thesis.

**OLD TESTAMENT (NON-PHD TRACK)**Year One–1st Semester (Fall)

EP 810	Intro. to Academic Research	1
OT 861	Exegesis of Genesis 1–11	2
TH 888	Seminar in Eschatology	2
OT 841	Old Testament Issues	<u>2</u>
		7

Year One–2nd Semester (Spring)

EP 820	Philosophy of Pedagogy	1
NT 745	Exegesis of John 1–12	2
OT 872	Biblical Aramaic	2
OT 871	Advanced Hebrew Readings	<u>2</u>
		7

Year Two–1st Semester (Fall)

EP 830	Practice of Pedagogy	1
TH 824	Seminar in Soteriology	2
OT 863	Exegesis of Zechariah	2
Winterim Course/Elective		<u>2</u>
		7

Year Two–2nd Semester (Spring)

OT 839	Advanced Research Methods	3
OT 853	Advanced Hebrew Grammar	2
Directed Study/Elective		<u>2</u>
		7

TOTAL: 28 units

**OLD TESTAMENT (PHD-TRACK)**Year One–1st Semester (Fall)

EP 810	Intro. to Academic Research	1
OT 861	Exegesis of Genesis 1–11	2
TH 888	Seminar in Eschatology	2
OT 841	Old Testament Issues*	<u>2</u>
		7

Year One–2nd Semester (Spring)

EP 820	Philosophy of Pedagogy	1
NT 745	Exegesis of John 1–12	2
OT 872	Biblical Aramaic	2
OT 871	Advanced Hebrew Readings*	<u>2</u>
		7

Year Two–1st Semester (Spring)

EP 830	Practice of Pedagogy	1
TH 824	Seminar in Soteriology	2
OT 863	Exegesis of Zechariah	2
OT 873	Akkadian*	2
OT 837A	Thesis Intro. Methods**	<u>2</u>
		9

Year Two–2nd Semester (Spring)

OT 838	ThM Thesis**	2
OT 853	Advanced Hebrew Grammar	2
GR 800	Theological German*	<u>2</u>
		6

TOTAL: 29 units

\* *Incorporates PhD qualifying exam*\*\**Incorporates Thesis Fee*

### NEW TESTAMENT (NON-PHD TRACK)

#### Year One–1st Semester (Fall)

EP 810	Intro. to Academic Research	1
OT 861	Exegesis of Genesis 1–11	2
NT 877	Exegesis of Pastoral Epistles	2
NT 855	NT Textual Criticism	<u>2</u>
		7

#### Year One–2nd Semester (Spring)

EP 820	Philosophy of Pedagogy	1
NT 870	Exegesis of John 1–12	2
NT 856	Criticism of Syn. Gospels	2
NT 853	Advanced Greek Grammar	<u>2</u>
		7

#### Year Two–1st Semester (Fall)

EP 830	Practice of Pedagogy	1
TH 824	Seminar in Soteriology	2
TH 888	Seminar in Eschatology	2
	Winterim Course/Elective	<u>2</u>
		7

#### Year Two–2nd Semester (Spring)

NT 840	Advanced Research Methods	3
NT 861	Exegesis of Luke-Acts	2
	Directed Study/Elective	<u>2</u>
		7

TOTAL: 28 units

### NEW TESTAMENT (PHD TRACK)

#### Year One–1st Semester (Fall)

EP 810	Intro. to Academic Research	1
OT 861	Exegesis of Genesis 1–11	2
NT 877	Exegesis of Pastoral Epistles	2
NT 855	NT Textual Criticism*	<u>2</u>
		7

#### Year One–2nd Semester (Spring)

EP 820	Philosophy of Pedagogy	1
NT 870	Exegesis of John 1–12	2
NT 856	Criticism of Syn. Gospels	2
NT 853	Advanced Greek Grammar*	<u>2</u>
		7

#### Year Two–1st Semester (Fall)

EP 830	Practice of Pedagogy	1
TH 824	Seminar in Soteriology	2
TH 888	Seminar in Eschatology	2
LT 800	Theological Latin*	2
NT 837A	Thesis Intro. Methods**	<u>2</u>
		9

#### Year Two–2nd Semester (Spring)

NT 838	ThM Thesis**	2
NT 861	Exegesis of Luke-Acts	2
GR 800	Theological German*	<u>2</u>
		6

TOTAL: 29 units

\* *Incorporates PhD qualifying exam*

\*\* *Incorporates Thesis Fee*

**THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (NON-PHD TRACK)**Year One–1st Semester (Fall)

EP 810	Intro. to Academic Research	1
TH 824	Seminar in Soteriology	2
TH 888	Seminar in Eschatology	2
TH 805	Readings in Historical Theology	<u>2</u>
		7

Year One–2nd Semester (Spring)

EP 820	Philosophy of Pedagogy	1
NT 745	Exegesis of John 1–12	2
TH 828	Seminar in Dispensational Theo.	2
TH 807	Readings in Systematic Theology	<u>2</u>
		7

Year Two–1st Semester (Fall)

EP 830	Practice of Pedagogy	1
OT 861	Exegesis of Genesis 1–11	2
TH 813	Seminar in Bibliology	2
Winterim Course/Elective		<u>2</u>
		7

Year Two–2nd Semester (Spring)

TH 840	Advanced Research Methods	3
TH 816	Seminar in Theology Proper	2
Directed Study/Elective		<u>2</u>
		7

TOTAL: 28 units

**THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (PHD TRACK)**Year One–1st Semester (Fall)

EP 810	Intro. to Academic Research	1
TH 824	Seminar in Soteriology	2
TH 888	Seminar in Eschatology	2
TH 805	Readings in Historical Theology*	<u>2</u>
		7

Year One–2nd Semester (Spring)

EP 820	Philosophy of Pedagogy	1
NT 745	Exegesis of John 1–12	2
TH 828	Seminar in Dispensational Theo.	2
TH 807	Readings in Systematic Theology*	<u>2</u>
		7

Year Two–1st Semester (Fall)

EP 830	Practice of Pedagogy	1
OT 861	Exegesis of Genesis 1–11	2
TH 813	Seminar in Bibliology	2
LT 800	Theological Latin*	2
TH 837A	Thesis Intro. Methods**	<u>2</u>
		9

Year Two–2nd Semester (Spring)

TH 838	ThM Thesis**	2
TH 816	Seminar in Theology Proper	2
GR 800	Theological German*	<u>2</u>
		6

TOTAL: 29 units

\* *Incorporates PhD qualifying exam*\*\* *Incorporates Thesis Fee*

**BIBLE EXPOSITION (NON-PHD TRACK)**Year One–1st Semester (Fall)

EP 810	Intro. to Academic Research	1
TH 813	Seminar in Bibliology	2
BI 824	Readings in Cont. Hermeneutics	2
BI 826	Readings in Cont. Homiletics	<u>2</u>
		7

Year One–2nd Semester (Spring)

EP 820	Philosophy of Pedagogy	1
NT 877	Exegesis of the Pastoral Epistles	2
BI 830	History of Biblical Interp. Pt 1	2
BI 832	History of Biblical Preaching	<u>2</u>
		7

Year Two–1st Semester (Fall)

EP 830	Practice of Pedagogy	1
OT 864	Exegesis of Psalm 119	2
BI 831	History of Biblical Interp. Pt 2	2
	Winterim Course/Elective	<u>2</u>
		7

Year Two–2nd Semester (Spring)

BI 840	Advanced Research Methods	3
BI 870	From Text to Exposition: Romans	2
	Directed Study/Elective	<u>2</u>
		7

TOTAL: 28 units

**BIBLE EXPOSITION (PHD TRACK)**Year One–1st Semester (Fall)

EP 810	Intro. to Academic Research	1
TH 813	Seminar in Bibliology	2
BI 824	Readings in Cont. Hermeneutics*	2
BI 826	Readings in Cont. Homiletics*	<u>2</u>
		7

Year One–2nd Semester (Spring)

EP 820	Philosophy of Pedagogy	1
NT 877	Exegesis of the Pastoral Epistles	2
BI 830	History of Biblical Interp. Pt 1	2
BI 832	History of Biblical Preaching	<u>2</u>
		7

Year Two–1st Semester (Fall)

EP 830	Practice of Pedagogy	1
OT 864	Exegesis of Psalm 119	2
BI 831	History of Biblical Interp. Pt 2	2
LT 800	Theological Latin*	2
BI 837A	Thesis Intro. Methods**	<u>2</u>
		9

Year Two–2nd Semester (Spring)

BI 838	ThM Thesis**	2
BI 870	From Text to Exposition: Romans	2
GR 800	Theological German*	<u>2</u>
		6

TOTAL: 29 units

\* *Incorporates PhD qualifying exam*\*\* *Incorporates Thesis Fee***Three-Year Course of Study**

The following charts provide a curriculum layout for each of the four disciplines, assuming a three-year course of study. The chart in the left column represents the 28-unit non-Ph.D. track which culminates in a research portfolio. The chart in the right column represents the 29-unit Ph.D. track culminating in a thesis.

**OLD TESTAMENT (NON-PHD TRACK)**Year One–1st Semester (Fall)

EP 810	Intro. to Academic Research	1
OT 861	Exegesis of Genesis 1–11	2
TH 888	Seminar in Eschatology	<u>2</u>
		5

Year One–2nd Semester (Spring)

NT 745	Exegesis of John 1–12	2
OT 872	Biblical Aramaic	<u>2</u>
		4

Year Two–1st Semester (Fall)

OT 863	Exegesis of Zechariah	2
OT 841	Old Testament Issues	<u>2</u>
		4

Year Two–2nd Semester (Spring)

EP 820	Philosophy of Pedagogy	1
OT 853	Advanced Hebrew Grammar	2
OT 871	Advanced Hebrew Readings	<u>2</u>
		5

Year Three–1st Semester (Fall)

EP 830	Practice of Pedagogy	1
TH 824	Seminar in Soteriology	2
	Winterim Course/Elective	<u>2</u>
		5

Year Three–2nd Semester (Spring)

OT 839	Advanced Research Methods	3
	Directed Study/Elective	<u>2</u>
		5

TOTAL: 28 units

**OLD TESTAMENT (PHD-TRACK)**Year One–1st Semester (Fall)

EP 810	Intro. to Academic Research	1
OT 861	Exegesis of Genesis 1–11	2
TH 888	Seminar in Eschatology	<u>2</u>
		5

Year One–2nd Semester (Spring)

EP 820	Philosophy of Pedagogy	1
NT 745	Exegesis of John 1–12	2
OT 872	Biblical Aramaic	<u>2</u>
		5

Year Two–1st Semester (Fall)

OT 863	Exegesis of Zechariah	2
OT 841	Old Testament Issues*	<u>2</u>
		4

Year Two–2nd Semester (Spring)

OT 853	Advanced Hebrew Grammar	2
OT 871	Advanced Hebrew Readings*	2
OT 837A	Thesis Intro. Methods**	<u>2</u>
		6

Year Three–1st Semester (Fall)

EP 830	Practice of Pedagogy	1
TH 824	Seminar in Soteriology	2
OT 873	Akkadian*	<u>2</u>
		5

Year Three–2nd Semester (Spring)

OT 838	ThM Thesis**	2
GR 800	Theological German*	<u>2</u>
		4

TOTAL: 29 units

\* *Incorporates PhD qualifying exam*\*\* *Incorporates Thesis Fee*

**NEW TESTAMENT (NON-PHD TRACK)**

Year One–1st Semester (Fall)

EP 810	Intro. to Academic Research	1
OT 861	Exegesis of Genesis 1–11	2
NT 877	Exegesis of Pastoral Epistles	<u>2</u>
		5

Year One–2nd Semester (Spring)

NT 870	Exegesis of John 1–12	2
NT 856	Criticism of Syn. Gospels	<u>2</u>
		4

Year Two–1st Semester (Fall)

TH 888	Seminar in Eschatology	2
NT 855	NT Textual Criticism	<u>2</u>
		4

Year Two–2nd Semester (Spring)

EP 820	Philosophy of Pedagogy	1
NT 861	Exegesis of Luke-Acts	2
NT 853	Advanced Greek Grammar	<u>2</u>
		5

Year Three–1st Semester (Fall)

EP 830	Practice of Pedagogy	1
TH 824	Seminar in Soteriology	2
	Winterim Course/Elective	<u>2</u>
		5

Year Three–2nd Semester (Spring)

NT 840	Advanced Research Methods	3
	Directed Study/Elective	<u>2</u>
		5

TOTAL: 28 units

**NEW TESTAMENT (PHD TRACK)**

Year One–1st Semester (Fall)

EP 810	Intro. to Academic Research	1
OT 861	Exegesis of Genesis 1–11	2
NT 877	Exegesis of Pastoral Epistles	<u>2</u>
		5

Year One–2nd Semester (Spring)

EP 820	Philosophy of Pedagogy	1
NT 870	Exegesis of John 1–12	2
NT 856	Criticism of Syn. Gospels	<u>2</u>
		5

Year Two–1st Semester (Fall)

TH 888	Seminar in Eschatology	2
NT 855	NT Textual Criticism*	<u>2</u>
		4

Year Two–2nd Semester (Spring)

NT 861	Exegesis of Luke-Acts	2
NT 853	Advanced Greek Grammar*	2
OT 837A	Thesis Intro. Methods**	<u>2</u>
		6

Year Three–1st Semester (Fall)

EP 830	Practice of Pedagogy	1
TH 824	Seminar in Soteriology	2
LT 800	Theological Latin*	<u>2</u>
		5

Year Three–2nd Semester (Spring)

NT 838	ThM Thesis**	2
GR 800	Theological German*	<u>2</u>
		4

TOTAL: 29 units

\* Incorporates PhD qualifying exam

\*\* Incorporates Thesis Fee

**THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (NON-PHD TRACK)**

Year One–1st Semester (Fall)

EP 810	Intro. to Academic Research	1
TH 824	Seminar in Soteriology	2
TH 888	Seminar in Eschatology	<u>2</u>
		5

Year One–2nd Semester (Spring)

NT 745	Exegesis of John 1–12	2
TH 828	Seminar in Dispensational Theo.	<u>2</u>
		4

Year Two–1st Semester (Fall)

TH 813	Seminar in Bibliology	2
TH 805	Readings in Historical Theology	<u>2</u>
		4

Year Two–2nd Semester (Spring)

EP 820	Philosophy of Pedagogy	1
TH 816	Seminar in Theology Proper	2
TH 807	Readings in Systematic Theology	<u>2</u>
		5

Year Three–1st Semester (Fall)

EP 830	Practice of Pedagogy	1
OT 861	Exegesis of Genesis 1–11	2
Winterim Course/Elective		<u>2</u>
		5

Year Three–2nd Semester (Spring)

TH 840	Advanced Research Methods	3
Directed Study/Elective		<u>2</u>
		5

TOTAL: 28 units

**THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (PHD TRACK)**

Year One–1st Semester (Fall)

EP 810	Intro. to Academic Research	1
TH 824	Seminar in Soteriology	2
TH 888	Seminar in Eschatology	<u>2</u>
		5

Year One–2nd Semester (Spring)

EP 820	Philosophy of Pedagogy	1
NT 745	Exegesis of John 1–12	2
TH 828	Seminar in Dispensational Theo.	<u>2</u>
		5

Year Two–1st Semester (Fall)

TH 813	Seminar in Bibliology	2
TH 805	Readings in Historical Theology*	<u>2</u>
		4

Year Two–2nd Semester (Spring)

TH 816	Seminar in Theology Proper	2
TH 807	Readings in Systematic Theology*	2
TH 837A	Thesis Intro. Methods**	<u>2</u>
		6

Year Three–1st Semester (Fall)

EP 830	Practice of Pedagogy	1
OT 861	Exegesis of Genesis 1–11	2
LT 800	Theological Latin*	<u>2</u>
		5

Year Three–2nd Semester (Spring)

TH 838	ThM Thesis**	2
GR 800	Theological German*	<u>2</u>
		4

TOTAL: 29 units

\* Incorporates PhD qualifying exam

\*\* Incorporates Thesis Fee

**BIBLE EXPOSITION (NON-PHD TRACK)**Year One–1st Semester (Fall)

EP 810	Intro. to Academic Research	1
TH 813	Seminar in Bibliology	2
BI 824	Readings in Cont. Hermeneutics	<u>2</u>
		5

Year One–2nd Semester (Spring)

NT 877	Exegesis of the Pastoral Epistles	2
BI 830	History of Biblical Interp. Pt 1	<u>2</u>
		4

Year Two–1st Semester (Fall)

BI 826	Readings in Cont. Homiletics	2
BI 831	History of Biblical Interp. Pt 2	<u>2</u>
		4

Year Two–2nd Semester (Spring)

EP 820	Philosophy of Pedagogy	1
BI 832	History of Biblical Preaching	2
	Directed Study/Elective	<u>2</u>
		5

Year Three–1st Semester (Fall)

EP 830	Practice of Pedagogy	1
OT 864	Exegesis of Psalm 119	2
	Winterim Course/Elective	<u>2</u>
		5

Year Three–2nd Semester (Spring)

BI 840	Advanced Research Methods	3
BI 870	From Text to Exposition: Romans	<u>2</u>
		5

TOTAL: 28 units

**BIBLE EXPOSITION (PHD TRACK)**Year One–1st Semester (Fall)

EP 810	Intro. to Academic Research	1
TH 813	Seminar in Bibliology	2
BI 824	Readings in Cont. Hermeneutics*	<u>2</u>
		5

Year One–2nd Semester (Spring)

EP 820	Philosophy of Pedagogy	1
NT 877	Exegesis of the Pastoral Epistles	2
BI 830	History of Biblical Interp. Pt 1	<u>2</u>
		5

Year Two–1st Semester (Fall)

BI 826	Readings in Cont. Homiletics*	2
BI 831	History of Biblical Interp. Pt 2	<u>2</u>
		4

Year Two–2nd Semester (Spring)

BI 832	History of Biblical Preaching	2
BI 870	From Text to Exposition: Romans	2
TH 837A	Thesis Intro. Methods**	<u>2</u>
		6

Year Three–1st Semester (Fall)

EP 830	Practice of Pedagogy	1
OT 864	Exegesis of Psalm 119	2
LT 800	Theological Latin*	<u>2</u>
		5

Year Three–2nd Semester (Spring)

BI 838	ThM Thesis**	2
GR 800	Theological German*	<u>2</u>
		4

TOTAL: 29 units

\* *Incorporates PhD qualifying exam*\*\* *Incorporates Thesis Fee*

# Educational Pedagogy

Training in Educational Pedagogy (EP) supports all discipline-level outcomes. Educational Pedagogy seminars provide the student with the skills necessary to fulfill a variety of ministries related to biblical and theological teaching and writing in the church as well as in academia. The seminars aim to refine the student's skills as a scholarly researcher, instructor, and writer, and to qualify him for potential doctoral studies.

The combination of coursework in the chosen emphasis and in Educational Pedagogy is designed to develop practical teaching and writing skills in a specialized area of research that will culminate either in research portfolio (non-Ph.D. track) or in a thesis (Ph.D. track). The EP courses in the Th.M. curriculum are described as follows:

1. EP 810 Introduction to Academic Research (1 unit):  
The course lays a foundation of research and writing skills necessary for critically engaging scholarship, and for establishing a potential area of specialization from which the student is encouraged to design a scholarly research portfolio or thesis (depending on track).
2. EP 820 Philosophy of Pedagogy (1 unit):  
The course intends to help students understand instructional methodologies and learning theories that undergird the theologically-informed teaching of pastor-scholars to adult Christian students. The course addresses the role and function of the Pastor-Scholar in persuading for a conservative evangelical worldview largely through the development of scholarly argumentation in his chosen area of specialization. Reading selections aim to cultivate practical principles of instruction, and writing assignments aim to advance presentation skills for use inside and outside of the classroom. Prerequisite course: EP 810.
3. EP 830 Practice of Pedagogy (1 unit):  
The course applies teaching principles to two learning environments. First, students will design lesson plans and present classroom lectures to their peers on content from their research specializations. Second, using an online learning platform and instructional technology, students will design and assess curriculum in their areas of specialization for potential use in select cross-cultural academic contexts. Prerequisite course: EP 820.
4. NT/OT/TH/BI 840 Advanced Research Methods (3 units):  
Students in the non-PhD track will construct and refine a scholarly corpus consisting of research papers written throughout the program totaling 35,000–50,000 words (approximately 150–200 pages). The instructor will advise as to additional pertinent writing, revisions, and formatting so that the portfolio provides a coherent literature review and contextual basis from which to draw a potential doctoral dissertation. Students will also work together in the revision process and in the pedagogical preparation of symposium-style research presentations. Prerequisite course: EP 830; to be taken in the final semester. (Note: Students in the Ph.D. track will take two, two-unit seminars—Thesis Introductory Methods and ThM Thesis—in their emphasis in place of this seminar.)

## Modular Format and Schedule

The unique format of the Th.M. program does not require students to take up residence in the Sun Valley, CA, area, although residency remains an option for students who prefer to live in the area. Most of the coursework for each seminar is able to be completed at a distance, but students are required to travel to the campus of TMS once each semester according to the academic calendar located below.

Each eighteen-week semester or term—held each fall and spring—is divided into three segments:

1. The pre-module session involves ten weeks of interactive learning facilitated by professors through video platforms such as Zoom or MS Teams. Assignments are submitted through the educational platform Canvas.
2. The modular session lasts from one to three weeks and takes place in-person on the campus of TMS. Most seminars are just one week in length, but certain language seminars may require up to three weeks of in-person instruction. The in-person module also provides students with the opportunity to access TMS’s research library and interact face-to-face with TMS faculty members.
3. After the completion of the in-person module, the post-module session provides an additional five weeks of supplemental learning facilitated through Zoom or MS Teams and Canvas. Students must complete all of the remaining requirements for each of their seminars no later than the last day of the post-module session.

The following chart provides an overview of the modular format for each semester:

Th.M. Semester				
Pre-Module Session	Modular Session			Post-Module Session
Ten weeks	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Five weeks

The Th.M. academic calendar from Fall 2020 to Spring 2023 is as follows:

2020–2021							
Term	Term Start Date	Pre-Module Session (10 wks)	Module Week 1	Module Week 2	Module Week 3	Post-Module Session (5 wks)	Term End Date
Fall 2020	Sept. 21	Sept. 21–Nov. 27	Nov. 30–Dec. 4	Dec. 7–11	Dec. 14–18	Dec. 21–Jan. 22	Jan. 22
Spring 2021	Mar. 1	Mar. 1–May 7	May 10–14	May 17–21	May 24–28	May 31–July 2	July 2

2021–2022							
Term	Term Start Date	Pre-Module Session (10 wks)	Module Week 1	Module Week 2	Module Week 3	Post-Module Session (5 wks)	Term End Date
Fall 2021	Sept. 20	Sept. 20–Nov. 26	Nov. 29–Dec. 3	Dec. 6–10	Dec. 13–17	Dec. 20–Jan. 21	Jan. 21
Spring 2022	Feb. 28	Feb. 28–May 6	May 9–13	May 16–20	May 23–27	May 30–July 1	July 1

2022–2023							
Term	Term Start Date	Pre-Module Session (10 wks)	Module Week 1	Module Week 2	Module Week 3	Post-Module Session (5 wks)	Term End Date
Fall 2022	Sept. 19	Sept. 19–Nov. 25	Nov. 28–Dec. 2	Dec. 5–9	Dec. 12–16	Dec. 19–Jan. 20	Jan. 20
Spring 2023	Mar. 6	Mar. 6–May 12	May 15–19	May 22–26	May 29–Jun. 2*	June 5–July 7	July 7

\* This module may need to be shortened by one day due to the observance of Memorial Day.

# Learning Outcomes

The purpose of the Th.M. degree program can be further detailed in a series of learning objectives, which reflect the educational results intended for students in both broad and particular scopes.

## Program-level Outcomes

The following *Program-level Learning Outcomes* (PLOs) guide the structure of the Th.M. curriculum:

- PLO #1: *As an advancing scholar*, specialize in an area of biblical or theological studies, gaining facility in its literature and scholarship.
- PLO #2: *As an advancing exegete*, employ more refined skills in Hebrew and Greek translation, exegesis, and interpretation.
- PLO #3: *As an advancing teacher*, implement the skills of communication and effective teaching of course content.
- PLO #4: *As an advancing researcher*, demonstrate thoughtfulness, in-depth interaction, thorough research, and excellence in scholarly writing.

The Th.M. curriculum is structured so that students will develop the following core skills:

- Acquire critical reading skills in relation to historical, contemporary, and emerging scholarship from a variety of perspectives (corresponds to PLOs 1, 2, 3, 4).
- Hone the academic writing skills of topic development, scholarly engagement, and persuasive argumentation (corresponds to PLOs 1, 2, 3, 4).
- Utilize specific language skills for the purpose of translation, exegesis, and interpretation (corresponds to PLOs 1, 2, 4).
- Develop research habits with application to scholarly writing and teaching (corresponds to PLOs 3, 4).
- Gain effective teaching skills: clarity, engagement, persuasion, assessment, and management (corresponds to PLOs 3, 4).
- Instruct in an area of specialization (corresponds to PLO 3).
- Engage in designing advanced, specialized curriculum (corresponds to PLO 3).

## Discipline-level Outcomes

In adherence to the objectives of the Th.M. program, the Old Testament, New Testament, Theology, and Bible Exposition emphases follow specific *Discipline-level Learning Outcomes* (DLOs).

**Old Testament (OT) Emphasis:** The Th.M. emphasis in Old Testament provides advanced mastery in the skills and research of the Hebrew Bible as well as in critical thinking skills related to exegetical and apologetical aspects of Old Testament studies, culminating in either a research portfolio (non-Ph.D. track) or a thesis (Ph.D. track).

- DLO #1: *As an advancing scholar*, specialize in an area of Old Testament studies, gaining facility in its literature and scholarship.
- DLO #2: *As an advancing exegete*, employ more refined skills in Hebrew translation, exegesis, and interpretation.
- DLO #3: *As an advancing teacher*, implement the skills of communication and effective teaching of course content.
- DLO #4: *As an advancing researcher*, demonstrate thoughtfulness, in-depth interaction, thorough research, and excellence in scholarly writing.

**New Testament (NT) Emphasis:** The Th.M. emphasis in New Testament provides advanced mastery in the skills and research of New Testament language as well as the grammatico-historical interpretation and exegesis of its literature, culminating in either a research portfolio (non-Ph.D. track) or a thesis (Ph.D. track).

- DLO #1: *As an advancing scholar*, specialize in an area of New Testament studies, gaining facility in its literature and scholarship.
- DLO #2: *As an advancing exegete*, employ more refined skills in Greek translation, exegesis, and interpretation.
- DLO #3: *As an advancing teacher*, implement the skills of communication and effective teaching of course content.
- DLO #4: *As an advancing researcher*, demonstrate thoughtfulness, in-depth interaction, thorough research, and excellence in scholarly writing.

**Theological Studies (TH) Emphasis:** The Th.M. emphasis in Theological Studies offers students advanced training in the major categories of theology and promotes expertise in a specific area of theology through the writing of either a research portfolio (non-Ph.D. track) or a thesis (Ph.D. track).

- DLO #1: *As an advancing scholar*, specialize in an area of systematic or historical theology, gaining facility in its literature and scholarship.
- DLO #2: *As an advancing exegetical theologian*, refine skills in biblical languages in order to develop a sound methodology for critically engaging theological issues.
- DLO #3: *As an advancing teacher*, implement the skills of communication and effective teaching of course content.
- DLO #4: *As an advancing researcher*, demonstrate thoughtfulness, in-depth interaction, thorough research, and excellence in scholarly writing.

**Bible Exposition (BI) Emphasis:** The Th.M. emphasis in Bible Exposition provides specialized instruction in the areas of hermeneutics—discovering the meaning of the ancient biblical text—and homiletics—communicating that meaning to a contemporary audience. It provides a detailed apologetic for both the grammatico-historical method of interpretation and a text-driving approach to exposition. The curriculum in this emphasis culminates in either a research portfolio (non-Ph.D. track) or a thesis (Ph.D. track).

- DLO #1: *As an advancing scholar*, specialize in an area of hermeneutics or homiletics, gaining facility in its literature and scholarship.
- DLO #2: *As an advancing interpreter*, apply the principles of interpretation in a refined and efficient manner, showing aptitude in exegesis in the languages and literature of both the Old and New Testaments.
- DLO #3: *As an advancing teacher*, show aptitude in the ability to move from text to exposition, showing skill in teaching by maintaining faithfulness to the intent of the biblical text while explaining it clearly to a contemporary audience.
- DLO #4: *As an advancing researcher*, demonstrate thoughtfulness, in-depth interaction, thorough research, and excellence in scholarly writing.

## Credit Hour Policy

A credit hour or unit of study is a time approximation of the amount of work required by the student to achieve the stated learning outcomes. Per the seminary's credit hour policy, each 2-unit seminar in the ThM requires at least 120 hours of class time and course work.

## Admissions Requirements

Each applicant must present an acceptable undergraduate baccalaureate degree and a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree (or the equivalent of the M.Div. at TMS, as explained below), with a 3.25 grade point average in the graduate degree. Applications must be made through the Office of Admissions ([www.tms.edu/admissions](http://www.tms.edu/admissions)).

International applicants will find information on TOEFL and transcript requirements at [www.tms.edu/admissions/international-students](http://www.tms.edu/admissions/international-students). International students must maintain full-time status while in the Th.M. program (four or more units per semester).

### TMS M.Div. Applicants

Students who are in their final year of the M.Div. program at TMS and have already completed (or are in the process of completing) 80 credit units are eligible to apply for early, provisional acceptance into the Th.M. program. Th.M. coursework completed concurrently during the final year of M.Div. studies (a maximum of four credit units) will be recorded only on the Th.M. transcript and will be charged at the Th.M. rate. Such candidates will remain on provisional status until they have successfully completed their M.Div. degree.

### Non-TMS Applicants

Applicants from institutions other than TMS must have successfully completed a M.Div. program from an accredited institution—or at least 72 credit hours of M.Div. equivalency from an institution meeting ATS requirements. Below are the foundational courses that parallel the core classes of the M.Div. degree at TMS.

- *Bible Exposition*: OT Survey; NT Survey; Hermeneutics
- *Old Testament*: Hebrew Grammar 1 and 2; Introduction to Hebrew Exegesis; OT Introduction; Hebrew Exegesis Elective
- *New Testament*: Introduction to Greek Exegesis 1 and 2; NT Introduction; Greek Exegesis Elective
- *Theological Studies*: Theology courses covering all ten areas of systematic theology as well as historical theology.

The applicant’s prior graduate-level courses will be compared to the following list of M.Div. courses at TMS, detailed with unit totals per discipline and course numbers, as described in the TMS Academic Catalog.

- *Bible Exposition*—14 units: BI 501, 502, 505, 601
- *Old Testament*—14 units: OT 503, 504, 603, 796 + exegesis elective
- *New Testament*—13 units: NT 603, 604, 796 + exegesis elective
- *Theological Studies*—20 units: TH 507, 508, 605, 606, 705, 706

Exact correspondence is not expected for applicants from other institutions, but applicants with curriculum deficiencies may be asked to fulfill a determined number of courses prior to completion of the application as remedial coursework. More typically, however, this remedial coursework can be fulfilled during the first year of study in the Th.M. program while accepted under provisional status. If remedial coursework at the M.Div. level is required, it will be charged at the M.Div. rate.

Up to four advanced graduate level credit units (beyond the M.Div.) from an accredited theological institution may be applied toward fulfillment of the Th.M. degree requirements. This request must be made in writing to the Director of Th.M. studies, who will make a determination in conjunction with the Academic Registrar.

## Financial Information

Tuition and fees are subject to change. The following costs are set for the 2021/2022 academic year:

Application fee (non-refundable; waived for TMS M.Div. graduates) .....	\$ 50
Full-time tuition fee (per unit) .....	\$ 515
Part-time tuition fee (per unit) .....	\$ 650
Qualifying exam fee (for retakes or for students possessing a Th.M. degree .....	\$ 650
Student Services fee (per semester) .....	\$ 150
Continuing Registration fee .....	\$150
Graduation fee (final semester): .....	\$ 100
Thesis fee (Ph.D. track students only): .....	\$ 400*

*\*The Thesis Fee will be divided in half and will be charged when the student registers for his thesis courses (i.e. \$200 will be charged for the Thesis Intro. Methods course and the second \$200 will be charged for the ThM Thesis course).*

Information about financial assistance is available at <https://tms.edu/admissions/financial-information/financial-aid/>. In general, scholarship funds are available on a limited basis for Th.M. students. However, significant scholarship funding is available for applicants who have been approved by TMAI for future involvement in those TMAI training centers.

For more information regarding payment options, refunds, and fees, see the TMS Academic Catalog.

## Academic Advising

Students are encouraged to interact with their professors on matters of academics, ministry, and life. However, the Director of Th.M. Studies serves as the student's primary contact throughout the program as to advising on registration, the student's curriculum plan, and other issues related to academics. The Director of Th.M. Studies, Dr. Brad Klassen, can be contacted at [bklassen@tms.edu](mailto:bklassen@tms.edu) or 818-909-5613.

## Program Delays, Probation, and Removal

To qualify for graduation, candidates in the non-Ph.D. track must complete 28 credit units of required coursework, including an acceptable research portfolio. Candidates in the Ph.D. track must complete 29 credit units of required coursework, including Ph.D. qualifying exams and an approved thesis.

Students who extend their study in the Th.M. beyond four years must request permission in writing from the Th.M./Ph.D. committee. Students requiring an extended pause from studies will be required to pay a continuing registration fee for each semester during which they are not registered for seminars. Failure to pay the continuing registration fee, or extending continuing registration for more than two semesters without registering for a course, will be viewed as withdrawal from the program. To continue in the Th.M. in such a case will require reappliance to the program.

The faculty of TMS retains the right to move a student into academic probation for poor quality work, unexcused absences, and behavior inconsistent with the rigorous nature of the program. In such a case, the Th.M./Ph.D. committee will provide a statement of stipulations and time frames for removal from the program if the student does not demonstrate improvement.

No grade less than B- will be credited toward the Th.M. degree. Any Th.M. research paper not submitted on time or submitted in a manner lacking conformity to the standards and expectations described in seminar syllabi will receive a failing grade.

Candidates must demonstrate agreement with the TMS doctrinal statement and a love for Christian ministry. They must exhibit exemplary and consistent Christian character and show willing compliance with the policies of the institution as detailed in the Academic Catalog.

## Track or Emphasis Changes

Upon application to the Th.M. program, candidates must indicate both their area of academic interest (OT, NT, TH, or BI emphasis) as well as their intention related to Ph.D. studies (non-Ph.D. track or Ph.D. track). Students who desire to change either their emphasis or their track once they have already been accepted into the program must complete a reapplication process and pay the necessary reapplication fee.

It is required that students who desire to enter the Ph.D. program must choose an emphasis in the Th.M. program that reflects their intended field of doctoral study (OT, NT, TH, or BI). To switch from one area of emphasis in the Th.M. program to different one in the Ph.D. program will require the Ph.D. program applicant to return to the Th.M. program to complete the seminars associated with that emphasis.

## Thesis Requirements (PhD Track)

An acceptable thesis evidencing a high degree of scholarly competence in the student's area of emphasis must be submitted by all Th.M. candidates who are in the Ph.D. track. The two Th.M. seminars associated with the thesis (Thesis Introductory Methods; ThM Thesis) account for four units of academic credit in the 29-unit curriculum of the Ph.D. track. Students in the non-Ph.D. track will not be permitted to register for the thesis-related seminars.

An acceptable thesis must contain not less than 100 nor more than 150 pages of text material. Approval of the thesis will be based upon literary quality, academic competence, and theological fidelity.

The first draft of the thesis (submitted as part of Thesis Introductory Methods) and the final draft of the thesis (submitted as part of ThM Thesis) must be prepared in conformity with the latest edition of the *TMS Style Guide*, supplemented by the latest edition of Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Where these sources lack information for an issue related to the thesis, the latest edition of *The SBL Handbook of Style* takes precedence.

Upon approval, three copies of the thesis are to be presented to the library for binding. Students who have completed their course work but have not completed their theses must pay continuing registration fees for each semester their thesis remains outstanding.

In fulfilling the thesis requirements, the following deadlines must be observed:

1. The student must register for OT/NT/TH/BI 837A Thesis Introductory Methods during his second to last Th.M. semester. However, before registering for this seminar, the student must work with the Director of Th.M. Studies to secure approval of an appropriate thesis advisor and an appropriate thesis topic. This process must be completed no later than the last Friday in May of the year prior to graduation. Consequently, it is highly advised that the student communicate directly with the Director early within the student's first year of the Th.M. program to settle on a topic and advisor. Selecting the topic early also allows the student to utilize his research requirements in other seminars for the benefit of this thesis.

2. The seminar OT/NT/TH/BI 837A Thesis Introductory Methods will be handled as a directed study. Once approval for an advisor and a topic has been secured from the Director of Th.M. Studies, the student will work directly with his advisor, and must fulfill all of the advisor's requirements related to research, writing, and submission deadlines related to this seminar. An acceptable first draft of the thesis must be submitted to the advisor no later than the last day of the module of the semester during which the student is registered for the Thesis Introductory Methods seminar. (Note: a "first draft" is not a "rough draft.")
3. Once the first draft of the thesis has been submitted, the advisor will thoroughly review the thesis within one month of receiving the submitted draft. The advisor will work with the Director of ThM Studies to secure a qualified second reader who will also review the first draft. The comments received from the advisor and second reader will direct the student's focus for the next stage of the thesis process.
4. Upon the successful completion of the Thesis Introductory Methods seminar, the student must then register for OT/NT/TH/BI 838 Th.M. Thesis during his final semester. For this seminar the student will implement the comments received from his advisor and the second reader related to his first draft submission. The student must implement changes quickly to allow time for another thorough review by his advisor (up to thirty days), time for additional changes to be made by the student at the request of the advisor, time for a corrector to review the manuscript, time for the corrector's corrections to be applied, and time for the thesis to be submitted for final approval by the advisor and for printing and binding.
5. The entire process must be completed by the last day of the student's final semester. Failure to abide by the deadlines will prevent the student from participating in a graduation ceremony and may even delay his completion of the Th.M. program for a semester or an entire year.

Advisors for Th.M. theses must be chosen from the full- or part-time faculty of TMS or TMU and must be approved by the Director of Th.M. Studies. Second readers will be chosen by the Director and thesis advisor, and can be TMUS adjunct faculty members or qualified Ph.D. students.

For more information on the specific deadlines for portions of the first draft, see the supplemental Handbook on ThM Theses.

## **Ph.D. Qualifying Exams**

The nature of the Ph.D. program requires that the qualifying exams be completed successfully prior to full acceptance into the Ph.D. program. A successful pass for each exam requires a score of 86% or higher. Applicants studying in the Ph.D. track of the Th.M. program must pass the Ph.D. qualifying exams in the area of his anticipated Ph.D. emphasis during the regularly allotted duration of the Th.M. program. These exams are built into the requirements of specific Th.M. seminars (see "Curriculum Layout" above). Completion of the qualifying exams

prior to full acceptance into the Ph.D. program allows the student to focus primarily on the dissertation once in the Ph.D. program.

Applicants who graduated with a Th.M. degree from TMS before 2018, and applicants who received a Th.M. degree from an institution other than TMS, may apply for provisional acceptance into the Ph.D. program prior to taking their Ph.D. qualifying exams and completing any other remedial Th.M. coursework prescribed by the Director of Ph.D. studies. This provisional acceptance is intended to provide the applicant to the Ph.D. program with assurance that once he successfully completes these Ph.D. prerequisites at the Th.M. level he will be fully accepted into the Ph.D. program.

Those with provisional acceptance in the Ph.D. program are allowed no more than two years to complete any remedial Th.M. coursework and to pass the Ph.D. qualifying exams in his area of emphasis. Additional time for completing these requirements and passing the exams will not be granted except in cases of extreme or emergency circumstances and only in response to a formal written letter of appeal from the student to the Th.M./Ph.D. committee.

Two of the Ph.D. qualifying exams must be taken in the applicant's chosen emphasis (OT, NT, TH, or BI). These two exams are designed to determine the student's awareness of the issues related to the selected field of study, his current position on salient issues relevant to that discipline, and his ability to express himself cogently in writing. These exams will be graded by a professor in the department/discipline of the applicant's emphasis. Weaknesses noted in these exams could be remedied by a Directed Reading exam.

The remaining two Ph.D. qualifying exams must be taken in German and another research language appropriate to the student's area of emphasis and his intended dissertation focus. The ability to read significant theological sources in German is deemed vital to research for all Ph.D. majors (OT, NT, TH, or BI). Consequently, an exam testing German reading comprehension is administered under the purview of the Th.M./Ph.D. committee. TMS offers a course in Theological German designed to prepare students for this required qualifying exam. No grades for German reading exams from other institutions will be accepted in place of taking the TMS German exam. For a major in NT, TH, or BI, an exam testing Latin reading comprehension is also administered. Based on an individual's anticipated dissertation topic, an exam testing comprehension of a different research language can be offered with approval by the Th.M./Ph.D. committee (e.g., French, Modern Hebrew, Dutch). For a major in OT, an exam testing for Akkadian rather than Latin reading comprehension is administered.

All examinations—both research language and emphasis-specific—will be graded awarded one of the following grades: High Pass, Pass, Retake, or Fail. The Th.M. student in the Ph.D. track must earn a Pass (equivalent to a numeric grade of at least 86%) or above to demonstrate that he has achieved the level of proficiency required to be fully accepted into the Ph.D. program. If an exam is failed, the Th.M./Ph.D. committee may decide to allow the applicant to retake the exam. In that case, the applicant must retake the exam no earlier than four weeks after the failure and no later than twelve weeks after the failure. Failure to pass any of the qualifying exams on the third attempt will result in final disqualification from entrance into the Ph.D. program.

International students in the Ph.D. track of the Th.M. program who desire to transition immediately into the Ph.D. program upon completion of their Th.M. studies are strongly encouraged to arrange their curriculum progress such that they complete all Ph.D. qualifying exams prior to their last semester in the Th.M. program. This allows the student to be accepted into the Ph.D. program (provisionally) while he concurrently maintains his student visa status as

a foreign student in the Th.M. program. It then allows for a seamless transition of his status as a student from one program to the next. Delaying coursework—and especially exams—delays acceptance into the Ph.D. program. This results in the expiration of a foreign student’s student visa, the need to return to one’s home country to await acceptance into the Ph.D. program, and a host of other administrative challenges.

For more information on the Ph.D. qualifying exams and the requirements of the Ph.D. program in general, see the Doctor of Philosophy Handbook.

## Technology and Resource Requirements

To facilitate modular and distance education, TMS utilizes the Canvas learning management system and video platforms such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams. Students will need to have access to a computer capable of running these technologies. A computer of five years or newer will typically not have any problems. Students also need a webcam and microphone for online interaction. To accommodate video streaming, students must also have an adequate internet speed. It is also recommended that students also utilize headphones during group conference calls to reduce audio feedback and mute their microphones when not speaking.

Because the Th.M. program does not require students to reside in close proximity to the TMS campus but instead permits them to remain in their places of work and ministry anywhere in the world and travel to Los Angeles only once each semester, the student must take the necessary steps to maintain access to the academic resources appropriate to his area of study. Some of these resources are provided to students through Library Services as TMS (<https://tms.edu/students/library/library-services/>). Students are expected to procure Bible software that provides access to advanced biblical scholarship resources. For more information about expectations, recommendations, and possible deals, contact Matt Nerdahl at [mnerdahl@tms.edu](mailto:mnerdahl@tms.edu).

While many academic resources are now available in electronic format, students must follow each professor’s requirements with respect to the use of these resources. If a professor requires a hard copy of a resource for a seminar, it is the responsibility of that student to secure the required copy, even if he possesses it in electronic format.

## Dress Code

As men training for the highest levels of gospel ministry, conformity to respectable standards of appearance is required while interacting with faculty, staff, and students—whether through the video interface or during in-person visits to the campus. The Academic Catalog further addresses the topic, but a few notes will suffice here:

- For video-interaction, students are expected to have a dignified appearance. A collared dress shirt is required (a tie is optional). The student must also join the video call in a setting that is appropriate for academic and ministry discussion. Connecting in an environment with distractions (while driving, while in a coffee shop, restaurant, or other public place, from a room shared with children or coworkers, etc.) is not permitted.

- For on-campus visits, students are also expected to have a dignified appearance that includes a collared dress shirt (no tie required), slacks, dress socks, and dress shoes.

## Code of Conduct

As detailed in the TMS Academic Catalog, “students at The Master’s Seminary will maintain the highest of standards in personal conduct and biblical conviction,” including:

- Faithful involvement in the ministry of a local church.
- Personal and academic honesty, avoiding all forms of lying, plagiarism, cheating on exams or assignments.
- Compliance with personal and institutional financial obligations.
- Commitment to excellence with educational, employment, and ministry responsibilities.
- Prioritization of family relationships and responsibilities so as to maintain a biblical household, including abstaining from unbiblical sexual activities or relationship.

## Graduation

The student who has successfully completed (B- or above) all the requirements of his chosen emphasis (OT, NT, TH, or BI) and according to his chosen track (non-Ph.D. or Ph.D.) is eligible for graduation. This includes the successful completion of a research portfolio (non-Ph.D. track) or a research thesis and all qualifying exams (Ph.D. track).

Because TMS’s annual graduation service takes place while the spring Th.M. semester is still in session, approval can be granted to those students in their final semester of the Th.M. program to participate in the graduation service. If the student has established a reputation for consistent, academic success throughout his Th.M. studies, if he has already completed all the requirements for his final semester in each of his seminars according to stipulated deadlines, and if he is nearing completion of his research portfolio or thesis, special permission will be granted by the Director of Th.M. studies in coordination with the Academic Registrar. Final determination will be made for each candidate three weeks before the graduation service. The actual Th.M. diploma will only be given to the student upon the finalization of his Th.M. transcript.